

**From:** bad@reliable-net.net  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, May 8, 2003 5:29 AM  
**Subject:** <No Subject>

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MAY - 9 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

I urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. Many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher Dunham  
Monrovia, Indiana 46157

**From:** Marc Tewari  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10:17 AM  
**Subject:** FCC allowing companies to monopolize radio

To: FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell[NL][NL] Commissioners Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Kevin J. Martin, Michael J. Copps, Jonathan S. Adelstein[NL][NL] Dear Commissioner [NL][NL] I am pleased to learn that the FCC is launching a review of media ownership rules. I am appalled at the massive media mergers that have changed the face of American broadcasting over the last decade. Entire communities are no longer being served by independent voices, local news and programming. Previous relaxation of ownership rules have gutted commercial radio of its variety, color, independence and sense of competition. This can hardly be deemed "broadcasting in the public interest." [NL][NL] The days of competing local radio formats have been replaced by homogenized rebroadcasts of the same satellite feeds from the same national sources to practically every market in the nation. This is particularly evident in smaller cities like Santa Barbara, CA where one company, Clear Channel, now owns seven radio stations- a literal stranglehold on the local radio band. [NL][NL] We need to encourage independent ownership and diversity of programming. There was inherent wisdom in earlier FCC rulings that imposed strict limits on the amount of stations one company could own. The same may be said of FCC rules prohibiting one company from owning a broadcasting station and a newspaper in the same market. [NL][NL] The idea that the FCC may further loosen ownership rules is preposterous. The time has come to rescind the previous relaxations of these rules, to re-impose ownership limits, to reinstate rules requiring annual local programming assessments, and to force media behemoths like Clear Channel and Infinity to diversify their holdings. [NL][NL] To allow the most popular sources of news, information and entertainment to be owned by a small handful of people across the nation and in any one community is extremely dangerous for our democratic process. [NL][NL] Thank you,

**From:** Dulcinea Langfelder  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10:49 PM  
**Subject:** Free press

Mr. Powell,

These days, when I feel a strong desire to protect humanity and democracy against terrible injustice (which happens often, these days) I don't write to my local congressman - or to any politician - I write to the media

It's not a good sign I know (for a fact) that the media has more power than elected politicians do. Maybe that doesn't worry you - apparently not. Why would that be?

I have one simple question, Do we have a genuinely free press? Otherwise put, do we really have the freedom and democracy that we think the rest of the world should enjoy?

I would ask you to answer that question - honestly - putting your self interest aside for just a moment, and very simply, doing your job

Dulcinea Langfelder

**From:** Suesec@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10:55 PM  
**Subject:** Biennial Regulatory Review

As I understand the Biennial Regulatory Review of the FCC is to take place on June 2, 2003. At this time a vote will be taken on whether to change the law to allow a media group to own (or use our, the citizens of the US airways) a much larger portion of media outlets. This is an EXTREME disservice to the American People. Diversity in media is the only way in which the interests of all people can be served. I hope that each committee member thinks long and hard about how his/her vote will effect each citizen's access to a multitude of diverse opinions and programming. Keep our country free by letting more small individuals/groups rather than just a few extremely large groups control the media in our country.

Susan McCrady  
2803 E. Wallace Cir  
Ogden, UT 84403

**From:** Sue99p@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 11:37 PM  
**Subject:** (no subject)

Dear Mr. Powell, I am very much concerned about the decision about to be made by the FCC concerning changing the rules of media ownership in this country. There has not been enough information disseminated to the public, or enough discussion on these historic changes. Democracy cannot exist without a free press, and the press will certainly be compromised if owned by a few companies whose main interest is profit. The airwaves belong to the American people, and should be treated as such. Do not change the rules!  
Sincerely yours, Sue Petersen

**From:** Chia Hamilton  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:17 AM  
**Subject:** Comments to the Commissioner

Chia Hamilton (avpchia@sbcglobal.net) writes

Please do NOT allow more consolidation of television and newspapers. As it stands now, there are nowhere near enough divergent viewpoints expressed. For our society to grow and prosper we need a variety of opinions available to the general public to stimulate ideas and discourse. This is what helps make America great. Thank you.

---

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1  
Remote host: 64.172.61.36  
Remote IP address: 64.172.61.36

**From:** SEAMCD43@aol.com  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:45 AM  
**Subject:** Nedia Deregulation

I oppose the further deregulation of the media. It will only lead to more control of information and entertainment by a few. No more, please.

Charles McDermott  
2276 Martinique Lane  
Oxnard, CA 93035

**From:** Bill Lavelle  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1 12 AM  
**Subject:** on media ownership

May 1, 2003

Dear Mr. Copps

On or about June 2, 2003 you will vote on a proposal that would allow single-owner control of multiple media outlets in individual markets around the country. I wish to let you know that I am unequivocally opposed to that proposal.

A plethora of information, a diversity of ideas, and their widespread circulation among the citizenry are cornerstones of a real democracy. Increasing consolidation in the ownership of news and opinion sources is antithetical to full and open public discourse. How ironic at a time we send US soldiers to die to promote democracy in Iraq, we seem willing to let a nearly oligopolistic media determine the content and form of information that is made available to us. The airwaves are a national, not a proprietary resource, and the FCC is meant to represent the interests of all the American people. Democracy in America is drowning and you are in a position to throw it a life ring. Let your legacy be that you did that.

I request that you vote NOT to loosen FCC regulations to permit ownership of multiple forms of media in a single market. Moreover, I urge you to study and seek to rescind those elements of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 that are being shown increasingly to have narrowed the breadth of news and opinion broadcast in our country.

Sincerely,

J W Lavelle  
10025 39th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
jwlavelle@w-link.net



**From:** PostDlpost@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:47 AM  
**Subject:** No to Monopoly Media Control, No to Corporate Censorship

Dear Commissioners,

The airwaves belong to the people, not to any corporate entity. We have already lost so much freedom of speech. It's owned by large corporations. You must preserve our Bill of Rights, our freedom of speech and say no to large corporate mergers. Do your duty as a public entity. You represent the people, not large corporations.

Dianne Post, J.D.  
Phoenix, AZ

**From:** Marion Young  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 2:51 AM  
**Subject:** Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation

Dear Chairman Michael Powell

Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Ms. Marion Young  
6600 Telephone Rd #708  
Ventura, CA 93003

**From:** Alan Norris  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 8:19 AM  
**Subject:** Media Ownership Rules Changes

Dear Mr. Copps

I am very concerned that the FCC is considering relaxing the current rules governing broadcast ownership. The consolidation of media power in any given market will severely curtail independent voices in towns and cities across the country. To allow whole communities and in some instances whole states to be dominated by one media company runs contrary to the good of the people. If history teaches us anything it is that large media conglomerates have used their power to stifle opposing viewpoints. The rule changes that the FCC is currently considering will give far greater power to these conglomerates. You only have to look at who is fighting for these rule changes to see just who will benefit. Media giants such as Disney/ABC and Viacom/CBS cannot be allowed to dominate our news media. The individual consumer such as me looks to you, the commissioners of the FCC, to protect us from the giants of the industry - that is your job. Please do not let me down.

Sincerely  
Alan Norris

**From:** Susanne Brown  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 9 15 AM  
**Subject:** Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

Susanne Brown  
15 Tumblebrook Lane  
West Hartford, CT 06117

May 2, 2003

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Commissioner Copps

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative effects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process

Sincerely,

Sue Brown

**From:** Herman & Joan  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 9 45 AM  
**Subject:** Let everyone be heard

Gentlemen & Women,

I have recently been made aware of a proposal to change the FCC Broadcast Ownership Rules that prohibit monopoly ownership of media sources. I also understand that among the corporations fighting for the relaxing of these rules are the large media conglomerates.

If these proposals are adopted, it would in effect give the media giants greater power to keep opposing viewpoints off the air and out of the newspapers. Independent voices not popular with the people who run the conglomerates could and would be silenced.

In a society that holds freedom of speech in the highest regard, this would be a travesty unparalleled.

You must not, can not, and I say this not as an order but a plea, hesitate in rejecting these proposals in their entirety.

A concerned citizen  
Herman Tempelman  
Clinton Corners, n y

**From:** Sharon  
**To:** Mike Powell, KM KJMWEB, Kathleen Abernathy, neal shapiro@nbc.com, mg3@cbsnews.com, eason.jordan@cnn.com, cnnfutures@cnn.com, newshour@pbs.org, john.moody@foxnews.com  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10:10 AM  
**Subject:** Media Control - Take Action Against FCC Deregulation

Please read the email below that I received today. If all of this below is true, please don't let this happen.  
Thank you,  
Sharon Shiell  
972-203-8023

Subject: Fw: Media Control - Take Action Against FCC Deregulation

> Democracy was getting old anyway  
>  
> > MEDIA CHALLENGE! - An urgent action from Peace Coalitions for April 28-May 5  
> > The FCC is about to put vital control of media in this country in a very few hands - and quickly needs to be stopped. Under "deregulation" rules proposed by the Federal Communications Commission, the already dangerous monopoly of TV and radio (and therefore of news, public thought and action) would dramatically worsen. The five corporations that own TV networks would be green-lighted to buy up each other. Local TV and radio stations would be swallowed by larger companies. Local newspapers and broadcast outlets would be allowed to purchase each other.  
> > In a few years, Fox, General Electric and the radio giant Clear Channel - the most ambitious players - would potentially have an iron grip on the way the majority of the public gets its information. These companies have shown no interest in the public good, only in protecting their bottom lines while putting out news that is more deceiving than informing, when not actually right-wing propaganda - witness the buildup to and coverage of the Iraq war.  
> > The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee is preparing to hold crucial hearings on the proposed FCC deregulation. FCC chair Michael Powell is promising a vote on the new FCC regulations by June 2. The media giants have spent huge amounts to buy support in Congress and have cleansed their news of any critical reporting on the Bush administration. Breaking with the industry line, mogul Barry Diller recently told Bill Moyers deregulation would greatly increase oligarchic control of media.  
> > Join the new Media Challenge! actions. Contact Congress and the FCC to

> stop this anti-democratic takeover Here's how to do it  
 > >  
 > > Media Challenge Action 1 (essential)  
 > > + Go to [www.mediareform.net](http://www.mediareform.net) <<http://www.mediareform.net>>  
 > > + Click to send your message to your Congressional Representatives and the  
 > FCC demanding they retain current media ownership rules  
 > > + The automatic message will also demand that Congress direct the FCC to  
 > extend its June 2 deadline and to release any proposed rule changes for  
 > public debate before acting on them It will further ask Congress to  
 > conduct  
 > its own public hearings on any FCC rule changes  
 > >  
 > >  
 > > Media Challenge! Action 2  
 > > Contact these members of the Senate Commerce Committee (essential,  
 > especially McCain)  
 > > + Senator John McCain, Phone (202) 224-2235, Fax (202) 228-2862,  
 > > [john\\_mccain@mccain.senate.gov](mailto:john_mccain@mccain.senate.gov)  
 > > + Senator Fritz Hollings, Phone (202) 224-6121, fax 202 224 4293,  
 > > <http://hollings.senate.gov>  
 > > + Senator Barbara Boxer, Phone (202) 224-3553 or (415) 403-0100, fax  
 > > 415 956 6701, [boxer.senate.gov](mailto:boxer.senate.gov)  
 > >  
 > > Contact these FCC Commissioners  
 > > + Chairman Michael Powell, 202-418-1000, [mpowell@fcc.gov](mailto:mpowell@fcc.gov)  
 > > + Commissioner Kevin J. Martin [kjmweb@fcc.gov](mailto:kjmweb@fcc.gov)  
 > > + Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy [kabernat@fcc.gov](mailto:kabernat@fcc.gov)  
 > >  
 > >  
 > > Sample Letter or Comment to Congress folks and FCC  
 > > Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (Senator or Commissioner)  
 > > Re Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation  
 > > Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be  
 > halted The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide  
 > unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent  
 > coverage of the war in Iraq As an American concerned about our democracy,  
 > I  
 > call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast  
 > spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate  
 > the Fairness Doctrine Oppose media deregulation  
 > >  
 > > Media Challenge! Action 3 (helpful)  
 > > + Call or write network news bosses (see contacts below)  
 > > + Tell them you want prominent daily coverage of the upcoming FCC vote,  
 > the most important media question in a decade  
 > > + Challenge them to report on their network's efforts to influence  
 > Congress and the FCC via campaign donations  
 > > + Challenge them to stop protecting the Administration and report on  
 > lies  
 > about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction exposed in the print media, on its  
 > environmental record, on the huge cutbacks coming in education, social and  
 > health programs and veterans benefits as money is shifted to campaign  
 > contributors for work in Iraq or to the wealthy in forms of new tax  
 > deductions  
 > >



> >  
 > > ABC NEWS CHIEF David Westin 212 456 6200 fax 212 456 4292,  
 > > ABC NEWS DIRECTOR Mimi Gurbst 212 456 4050 fax 212 456 2795  
 > > ABC SWITCHBOARD (ASK FOR NEWSROOM) 212 456-7777 NEWSROOM fax  
 212 456 2795  
 > > MSNBC NEWS CHIEF Mark Effron 201 583 5101 fax 201 583 5199,  
 > mark effron@msnbc.com MSNBC NEWS DIRECTOR Alison Hawley 201 583 5155,  
 fax  
 > 201 583 5512  
 > > MSNBC SWITCHBOARD (ASK FOR NEWSROOM) 201 583 5000, fax 201 583 5590  
 > > NBC NEWS CHIEF Neil Shapiro 212 664 4773 fax 212 664 2264,  
 > neal shapiro@nbc.com  
 > > NBC NEWS DIRECTOR Thomas Ferraro 201 583 5231 fax 201 583 5222  
 > > NBC SWITCHBOARD (ASK FOR NEWSROOM) 212 664 4444 fax 201 583 5453  
 > > CBS NEWS CHIEF Andrew Hayward 212 975 7825 fax 212 975 7429  
 > mg3@cbsnews.com  
 > > NEWS DIRECTOR Marty Gill 212 975 6121 fax 212 975 4114  
 > > CBS SWITCHBOARD (ASK FOR NEWSROOM) 212 975 4321 fax 212 975 1893  
 > > CNN NEWS CHIEF Eason Jordan 404 827 5111 fax 404 827 4215  
 > eason.jordan@cnn.com  
 > > CNN NEWS DIRECTOR Kim Bondy 404 827 1500 fax 404 827 1099  
 > > CNN NEWSROOM 404 827 1500 404 827 1500 cnnfutures@cnn.com,  
 > > PBS FACTUAL PROGRAMMING CHIEF Sandy Heberer 703 739 5036  
 > > PBS NEWS CHIEF, SANDY SOWERS 703-998-2150 newshour@pbs.org  
 > > PBS SWITCHBOARD (ASK FOR NEWSROOM) 703 998 2600  
 > > FOX NEWS CHIEF John Moody 212 301 8560 fax 212 398 8726  
 > john.moody@foxnews.com NEWS DIRECTOR Kathleen  
 > Ardleigh 212 3013186 fax 212-301-5067  
 > > FOX SWITCHBOARD (ASK  
 > > FOR NEWSROOM) 212 575 4670 fax 212 301 8274  
 > >  
 > > MEDIA CHALLENGE<sup>1</sup> is co-sponsored by Projects4Peace, ICUJP (Interfaith  
 > Communities United for Justice and Peace), Neighbors for Peace and  
 Justice,  
 > Coalition for World Peace, Global Guardianship Initiative, Code Pink for  
 > Peace, Peace on the Beach, Peace Warriors, LA International A N S W E R ,  
 No  
 > t in Our Name, Global Women's Strike and Southern Cal. Americans for  
 > Democratic Action, Americans Against War With Iraq For more information  
 about  
 > Media Challenge<sup>1</sup> and what the news networks are not telling you go to  
 > projects4peace.org and click on Media  
 > >  
 > > Feeling empowered? Wanna do more on this issue? GO TO  
 > > <http://www.mediareform.net/takeaction.php?issue=1>  
 > >  
 > >  
 > >  
 >

**From:** John Hannibal  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10:37 AM  
**Subject:** deregulation

Dear Mr. Powell,

Please add my name to the list of American citizens who oppose the further deregulation of the broadcast media. Due to the deregulation act of 1996 under the Clinton administration radio in the United States of America has become nothing more than an advertising medium for a few wealthy businessmen. The content of commercial radio has become so lackluster and appealing to the lowest common denominator. Talk about dumbing down our citizens. It is shameful. Further deregulation will only make matters worse and essentially take away the airwaves from the people. In fact, I guess all that talk of the airwaves belonging to us is just so much meaningless rhetoric.

Do the right thing Mr. Powell and stop contributing to the wasteland of the airwaves. Power by a few spells very big trouble for this country. Why do I have the feeling this is falling on deaf ears?

Sincerely,

John E. Hannibal III

Tune in to Radio Hannibal! Simply go to [www.live365.com](http://www.live365.com) (sign up if you haven't) then search for Radio Hannibal, click on the speaker icon and enjoy!

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** Dennis Madsen  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 10 42 AM  
**Subject:** media regulation

To FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell

Commissioners Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Kevin J. Martin, Michael J. Copps, Jonathan S. Adelstein, Senators Saxby Chambliss, Zell Miller

Dear Chairman

I do not doubt that you have received a number of e-mails similar to this, but I can only hope that you take the time to read and consider the arguments

I am pleased to learn that the FCC is launching a review of media ownership rules. I am appalled at the massive media mergers that have changed the face of American broadcasting over the last decade. Entire communities are no longer being served by independent voices, local news and programming. Previous relaxation of ownership rules have gutted commercial radio of its variety, color, independence and sense of competition. This can hardly be deemed "broadcasting in the public interest."

The days of competing local radio formats have been replaced by homogenized rebroadcasts of the same satellite feeds from the same national sources to practically every market in the nation. This is particularly evident in smaller cities like Santa Barbara, CA where one company, Clear Channel, now owns seven radio stations- a literal stranglehold on the local radio band.

We need to encourage independent ownership and diversity of programming. There was inherent wisdom in earlier FCC rulings that imposed strict limits on the amount of stations one company could own. The same may be said of FCC rules prohibiting one company from owning a broadcasting station and a newspaper in the same market.

The idea that the FCC may further loosen ownership rules is preposterous. The time has come to rescind the previous relaxations of these rules, to re-impose ownership limits, to reinstate rules requiring annual local programming assessments, and to force media behemoths like Clear Channel and Infinity to diversify their holdings. This is not healthy competition, this is the Wal-Martization of the media, to the detriment of smaller business owners, and the listening public in general.

To allow the most popular sources of news, information and entertainment to be owned by a small handful of people across the nation and in any one community is extremely dangerous for our democratic process.

Please, please, please! Stop the monopolization of our airwaves. The silencing of diversity in broadcasting is a stealth assault on democracy, and the FCC is our last line of defense!

Thank you,

Dennis J. Madsen  
588 Stokeswood Ave  
Atlanta GA 30316  
404 577 8656

**CC:** Laura Lester [E-mail 3], Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, saxby\_chambliss@chambliss.senate.gov, zell\_miller@miller.senate.gov

**From:** Paul H  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 11:00 AM  
**Subject:** Monopoly Ownership

Dear Mr Copps

I am deeply concerned about this issue of relaxing the FCC rules that prohibit monopoly ownership of our media sources. This has the potential to limit opposing views on all subjects that could influence our lives.

We as citizens of this great country, we have the freedom to hear and express our concerns and rights that may affect us. If a monopoly begins and special interests take root in our means of broadcasting information, we as citizens in this country could potentially lose our right to know vital information that affects our lives.

We don't have to look far to see a simple example of the control that this could have on our country. Just a simple observation of other countries whose media source which is controlled by a monopoly should scare anyone from allowing such an event to ever take place in our country.

I urge you to vote to prohibit monopoly ownership of all our media sources. To do contrary, would mean to jeopardize our right to know and be advised of situations that could have a negative impact on our lives. Even to someday take our precious freedoms away!

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,

Paul R Hinkel  
Chester, CT 06412

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**From:** Candice & David  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 11:09 AM  
**Subject:** FCC deregulation

Dear Commissioner Kabernat,

Please use your position to uphold our rights in a democratic nation and to not be ruled and owned by the corporations whose bottom line is more important than providing accurate reporting to the people.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation. Let's remember this is America where we cherish "Free Press". The current deregulation has affected our ability to get unbiased news and further regulation will destroy what's left.

Sincerely,

Candice Cosler

**From:** Grady, Anne  
**To:** 'senator@kennedy senate gov', 'senator\_lugar@lugar senate gov',  
 'olympia@snowe senate gov', 'senator@biden senate gov', 'senator@akaka senate gov',  
 'senator\_bingaman@bingaman senate gov', 'kit\_bond@bond senate gov',  
 'jim\_bunning@bunning senate gov', 'senator@breaux senate gov',  
 'saxby\_chambliss@chambliss senate gov', 'senator\_byrd@byrd senate gov',  
 'senator\_dewine@dewine senate gov', 'senator@conrad senate gov', 'senator@dorgan senate gov',  
 'senator\_domenici@domenici senate gov', 'senator@enzi senate gov', 'dick@durbin senate gov',  
 'bob\_graham@graham senate gov', 'russell\_feingold@feingold senate gov',  
 'chuck\_hagel@hagel senate gov', 'vermont@jeffords senate gov', 'tom\_harkin@harkin senate gov',  
 'tim@johnson senate gov', 'sf nancy@mail house gov', Commissioner Adelstein, KM KJMWEEB, Michael  
 Copps, Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 11 51 AM  
**Subject:** THE DEATH OF LOCAL NEWS STOP CLEAR CHANNEL>> Where's the FCC?

THE FCC IS NOT DOING ITS JOB TO MAKE THE AIRWAVES ACCESIBLE TO THE AMERICAN  
 PEOPLE CORPORATE DOMINANCE STINKS THERE IS LITTLE OR NO LOCAL COVERAGE  
 OR LOCAL OWNERSHIP OR LOCAL SAY  
 STOP DEREGULATION OF THE AIRWAVES THE AIRWAVES BELONG TO THE AMERICAN  
 PEOPLE THANK YOU Anne Grady, Natick, MA

#### CLEAR CHANNEL'S BIG STINKING DEREGULATION MESS

Eric Boehlert, Salon

Clear Channel, the radio and concert conglomerate, has been the greatest beneficiary of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which stripped all ownership limits in the radio industry. The rapacious company, led by Bush supporter Lowry Mays, has grown from 40 stations to 1,225 since then, and now uses its power to routinely bully advertisers and record companies, and more recently censor antiwar artists. However, as Eric Boehlert points out, its "success" may be the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of media activists. Clear Channel's stranglehold on the radio industry is the best and clearest example of the effects of rampant deregulation.  
<http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15281>

#### BARRY DILLER TAKES ON MEDIA DEREGULATION

Bill Moyers, Now with Bill Moyers

The founder of Fox Broadcasting and present CEO of USA Networks is an unlikely but passionate opponent of plans to loosen media ownership rules. In an interview with Bill Moyers, the media mogul explains how deregulation creates corporations with "such overwhelming power in the marketplace that everyone has to do essentially what they say." Diller argues that government regulation is essential to prevent media companies from controlling everything we see, read, and hear. As he puts it, "Who else is gonna do it for us?"

<http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15768>

#### THE DEATH OF LOCAL NEWS

Paul Schmelzer, AlterNet

Meet the Sinclair Broadcast Group, the "Clear Channel of local news." Since 1991, the company has managed to acquire 62 television stations or 24 percent of the national TV audience. The company's modus operandi is the centralized production of homogenized, repackaged faux "local" news. Its success offers an alarming glimpse of the post-deregulation world in which all news may be produced in one giant newsroom and from a single viewpoint -- which in Sinclair's case is wholeheartedly conservative.

<http://www.alternet.org/story.html?StoryID=15718>

**CC:** 'john\_kerry@kerry senate gov', 'senator\_kohl@kohl senate gov',  
'senator\_kohl@kohl senate gov', 'senator\_leahy@leahy senate gov', 'senatorlott@lott senate gov',  
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'senator@warner senate gov', 'senator\_voinovich@voinovich senate gov', 'senator@mikulski senate gov',  
'orrin\_hatch@hatch senate gov', 'senator@Feinstein senate gov', 'senator@edwards senate gov',  
'john conyers@mail house gov', Mike Powell, FCC FCCINFO, FOIA, Campaignlaw

**From:** Duncan B Cox, Jr  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 11:55 AM  
**Subject:** Media monopoly restrictions

TO: FCC Committee Considering Media Ownership Restrictions

I am concerned about the condensation of media ownership into a few powerful owners. I believe that our information media are vital to our national interest and that diversity in ownership will promote diversity in viewpoints. I believe that such diversity is vital to the protection of minority rights and to the promulgation of minority ideas that will eventually be seen as meritorious by the majority. I urge you to maintain governmental restrictions on the number of electronic media outlets that any one company can own, or to impose similar restrictions that will efficiently have the effect of promoting such diversity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Duncan B. Cox, Jr.  
40 Fort Hill Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930-4436 USA  
Tel 1-978-281-0244 Fax 1-978-283-3569  
Email dbcc@world.std.com



**From:** Mitchell H. Grayson, M.D.  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:32 PM  
**Subject:** Deregulation

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing to oppose the planned deregulation of the media. This is an ill conceived plan that will lead to large entertainment corporations controlling nearly all access to news in the US. Americans depend on their TV, radio, and newspapers for their news and information. As Clear Channel Communications has already proven, these large entertainment corporations care nothing for education and are entirely consumed with providing entertainment-even if it misleads the American public. We cannot allow the ideological far left or the ideological far right to control our access to news. Unfortunately, your planned deregulation will allow this-and on a national scale. Please do not sell out the ability to educate the American public in a (relatively) unbiased fashion. Do not allow deregulation.

Thank you  
-- Mitch Grayson

P.S. If I do not have the facts on this issue correct, or if I misunderstand the planned deregulation, then I beg you to do a better job of educating Americans on this issue. Clearly we have not had the time to fully understand or comment on your planned changes. Please allow a full and open debate (and one in which the public is properly informed in a timely manner).

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+++++

\*\*Primum Non Nocere!\*\*

cc  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

**CC:** Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

**From:** jrdavis6  
**To:** Michael Copps  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 12:48 PM  
**Subject:** broadcast ownership rules

I urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect american citizens from media monopolies

**CC:** jrdavis6@cpintenet.com

**From:** TLStrauss@aol.com  
**To:** Mike Powell  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:00 PM  
**Subject:** Deregulation rules

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a citizen of our democracy, I beg you to utilize the power you hold on the FCC to prevent further deregulation of our public airwaves. As they are already in the hands of far too few people, with far too much interest in common, we are already suffering from a diminished breadth of coverage, impoverished local reporting, and a dearth of the rich stew of information, opinion and reflection that is crucial to the health and well-being of a democracy. We no longer know whether reporters are reporting what they see and find, or what they are told.

The communications business is vastly different than other businesses and must be treated so. There is a feedback loop of great consequence on how well they inform and serve the public and our democracy, and they are doing that less well owned by fewer people. We cannot afford further deregulation, please do not support it. And I would urge you to go even farther, and reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

What follows is an opinion piece I wrote for the local paper. I hope you will read it.

Sincerely,  
Terry Strauss

#### Whose Airwaves Are They Anyway?

If we care about a free and open discussion of politics, economics and society in America, if we care about being informed by diverse opinions and voices not frightened into silence, if we really care whether our information comes from journalists who report what they see or journalists who report what they are told, now would be the time to stand up and holler. The Federal Communications Commission, FCC, is considering further deregulation of a communications industry already in the hands of the very few. Their Chairman, Michael Powell, son of Secretary of State Colin Powell, is promising a vote by June 2, on changes that would allow greatly increased consolidation of local and national radio and television.

While mergers and acquisitions have characterized the nature of our economy over the last decade or two, they have also characterized the nature of the changes in our media during that same time. For example, since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which authorized a deregulation allowing for acquisitions of unprecedented size, Clear Channel Communications has come to own 1,200 radio stations -- approximately 50% of the total number of US radio stations in existence, and five times the number owned by ABC or CBS. Prior to this deregulation, no single broadcaster could own more than 40 stations nationwide.

Clear Channel offers us a good look at the consequences of singular control of the public airwaves. The company's owner, L. Lowry Mays, a Texan and former business associate of George W. Bush, happens to be strongly allied

with this administration and has used our public airwaves to do the following Clear Channel removed John Lennon's IMAGINE and Cat Stevens' PEACE TRAIN from their playlists Clear Channel led a boycott of the Dixie Chicks grammy winning HOME album, following the group's criticism of President Bush Clear Channel network used our public airwaves to sponsor pro-war rallies called "Rally For America," and provided undeniably one-sided coverage on the war in Iraq

Even without such absolute dictatorial control, the chilling effect on diverse opinions is clear in television news reporting and commentary Most recently, NBC news president Neal Shapiro, called journalist Ashleigh Banfield on the carpet for criticizing the war coverage by the big three networks as having portrayed the war as overly "glorious and wonderful " She was speaking at Kansas State University, and was forced to apologize, saying she would never do it again

So what? Our country is full of behemoth corporations that have monopolies over markets, and personnel policies that serve their interests True, but we must recognize that the communications business is a different kind of market Yes, it is about entertainment and we all appreciate those who fill our airwaves with various forms of distraction, inspiration, and mind-numbing silliness But more important, and crucial to our society, is the part of communications that is about access to information, diverse opinions, and keeping the citizens of our democracy informed It is a business built on a commodity - the airwaves - held as a public trust It is a business with its roots bound to a cornerstone of democracy - a free press -- embedded in the very primary principles upon which our country was founded And although our founders might not have predicted radio and television, there is no doubt they would have regulated the selling of our public airwaves to insure the broadest of freedoms, not to guarantee profits by economies of scale and cross marketing opportunities

So whether you agree with the particular side that has control or not, is not the issue here At issue is the need for the FCC to consider the uniquely chilling effect of monopoly in media communications, to be concerned that any few corporations' opinions control, unchallenged, our public information networks, and to rule against further deregulation

**From:** TLStrauss@aol.com  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Fri, May 2, 2003 1:02 PM  
**Subject:** Deregulation

Dear Ms. Abernathy,

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The communications business is vastly different than other businesses and must be treated so. There is a feedback loop of great consequence on how well they inform and serve the public and our democracy, and they are doing that less well owned by fewer people. We cannot afford further deregulation, please do not support it. And I would urge you to go even farther, and reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

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